

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) A method for reducing the frictional force between an item to be delivered and the birth canal of the mother in human vaginal child birthing, which comprises introducing a composition comprising a physiologically acceptable organic lubricant and no alkali metal salts of metaphosphates, wherein the composition is in the form of a paste, gel, cream, suppository or foam, in an effective amount into the birth canal of the woman.

13. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein an organic substance itself brings about a lubricant effect in the composition, or in that the organic substance confers a lubricant effect through formulation of the composition.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the organic substance with a lubricant effect comprises a natural or synthetic oil, fat or wax.

15. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the organic substance with a lubricant effect comprises ~~soluble, emulsifiable, dispersible, optionally~~

~~low molecular weight, optionally biodegradable and/or optionally bioadhesive organic oligomer or polymer formulated as a composition optionally forming a lubricant film or acting as a lubricant~~ natural, modified natural, or synthetic polymers.

16. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the organic substance which confers a lubricant effect through formulation of the composition comprises a polymer which can be swelled by an organic solvent and/or water and which form a gel.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the composition is in the form of a ~~solution, emulsion, dispersion, oil or hydrogel.~~

19. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the organic lubricant is present in an amount of from 1 to 99% by weight in the composition.

20. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the composition further comprises an active pharmaceutical ingredient or a combination of at least two active pharmaceutical ingredients.

21. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the amount of active pharmaceutical ingredient or ingredients is from 0.0001 to 10% by weight, based on the composition.

22. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the active pharmaceutical ingredient or ingredients serve to inhibit child birthing or promote child birthing, alleviate pain, prevent infection, or prevent neonatal respiratory distress syndrome.

23. (Previously Presented) A method for reducing the frictional force between an item to be delivered and the birth canal of the mother in human vaginal child birthing, which comprises introducing a composition comprising a physiologically acceptable polyacrylic acid lubricant and no alkali metal salts of metaphosphates, wherein the composition is in the form of a paste, gel, cream, suppository or foam, in an effective amount into the birth canal of the woman.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the composition further comprises a cellulose, a humectant, and at least one isotonicizing substance.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the cellulose is selected from the group consisting of hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, and carboxymethyl cellulose.

26. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the humectant is selected from the group consisting of propylene glycol, glycerol, and polyethylene glycol.

27. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the humectant is propylene glycol and the cellulose is hydroxyethyl cellulose.